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INTRODUCTION: At the August 9 White House meeting on Rwanda and Burundi, we briefly considered our overall diplomatic strategy and agreed to discuss this matter in more detail at the next meeting which has been set for Thursday, August 17. At the August 9 meeting we distributed an unclassified draft strategy paper ("Great Lakes Political Conference: Objectives and Methods). This paper outlines the strategy behind a comprehensive regional political conference. Two other unclassified, internal State/AF memos provide additional information and describe the operational context in which we will implement our diplomatic strategy. One is an undated draft regional strategy paper which was prepared in late July and can serve as a good overall current action checklist. The other is the August 2 Bogosian-Wirth memo that divides the many specific issues and actions into five priority policy areas. Copies of all three memos are enclosed under cover of this memorandum.

OBJECTIVES: Our diplomacy is aimed at restoring stability to the Great Lakes region. With stability, the international community, together with local governments and inhabitants can turn their attention to the more enduring challenges of development and governance. To get to that point, it is imperative to resolve the refugee crisis and achieve reconciliation within Rwanda and Burundi. This will require judicial and other reforms including of the military and the police.

We have other diplomatic objectives as well including the success of the Rwanda Tribunal given the implications of genocide in Rwanda. Achieving our objectives requires that the USG maximize its influence and "diplomatic reach" at a time of reduced resources and urgent problems clamoring for attention in other parts of the world. We, therefore, need the support of the other key players in the Great Lakes area, and we need to minimize conflicts with such key players as the French.

CONTACT GROUPS: As noted at last Wednesday's meeting, the relationship with France could be crucial; therefore, we will play particularly close attention to the French, largely through the US-France-Belgium contact group that we have initiated. There will also be a larger contact group of key donors including the Germans, British, Dutch and Canadians who may occasionally play helpful political roles and have been among the most active donors in the region. The European governments will assure that the EU continues to make a positive contribution in the region.

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- 2 -

In addition, we need to maintain active contact with the key African players, i.e., Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire, Ethiopia and the OAU. In New York and Geneva important multilateral officials comprise the third contact group. Of course, we will have continuing diplomatic contact with the governments of Rwanda and Burundi.

As we move toward a regional conference, the diplomatic pace is likely to intensify. Our Embassies and Missions will carry out the majority of contacts, but the Rwanda/Burundi Coordinator should take the lead in developing and implementing our strategy, and he should establish personal contact with key decisionmakers in the relevant capitals. He will work closely with the French and Belgian Embassies in Washington and will travel as necessary to New York, Europe and Africa. In early September he will make an extensive trip to Europe (Brussels, Paris, Geneva, London, The Hague, Bonn, and Rome) and to Africa (Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, Kampala, Kinshasa, Bujumbura, and Kigali) and will follow-up as feasible. His principal focus during the trip will be to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive regional conference, but inevitably the other issues will have to be addressed as well.

Attachments:

1. Great Lakes Political Conference Memorandum dated Aug. 7, 1995
2. Rwanda/Burundi/Eastern Zaire/Western Tanzanian Regional Strategy paper
3. Rwanda/Burundi Priorities Memorandum dated August 2, 1995

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SERWB 5 x7-1818

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